



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, September 26, 2012
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U.S. ATTORNEY, D.E.A. OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE LOCAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK PROGRAM

Hogsett says prescription drug abuse is on the rise, affecting millions across country

PRESS CONFERENCE

EVANSVILLE – Joseph H. Hogsett, the United States Attorney, joined by Drug Enforcement Administration Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge Dennis Wichern, held an event in Evansville this morning to highlight this Saturday's fifth nationwide prescription drug "Take-Back" day.

"Last year, more than seven million Americans used prescription drugs for non-medical purposes, often with destructive and deadly results" Hogsett said. "These deaths are tragic, but they are also preventable, and this Saturday's event provides a great opportunity for all of us to do our part to reduce prescription drug abuse."

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the nation's fastest growing drug problem is that of prescription drug abuse. A recent Los Angeles Times study indicated that more people die from prescription drug overdose than automobile accidents. More than 2.4 million Americans misused medications for the first time last year, which amounts to more than 6,600 new drug users every day. The rate among young adults is now more than one in twenty. Prescription drugs are abused more often than cocaine, heroin, and hallucinogens – combined.

Seeking to prevent prescription drug abuse and theft, federal law enforcement, including the U.S. Attorney's Office, will be collecting potentially dangerous expired, unused, or unwanted prescription drugs at sites in Evansville and across the country.

"We urge everyone in Evansville to take five minutes over the next few days to go through their medicine cabinet and clean out those old prescriptions," said Wichern. "Those old bottles are ticking time bombs, and this Saturday you can get them out of your home for good."

Hogsett and Wichern said that Evansville-area residents had many options for Saturday's event, including the following drop-off locations:

- **Evansville** – Evansville National Guard Armory, 3300 Division Street
- **Evansville** – Indiana State Police Post, 19411 Highway 41 North
- **Henderson** – Kentucky State Police Post, 8415 Highway 41 South
- **Rockport** – Rockport Volunteer Fire Department, 615 Sycamore Street

The events will run from 10:00am until 2:00pm. The service is free and anonymous. For more information on local collection sites: <http://www.dea.gov>

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